

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a CuZnAlZr oxide catalyst having activity of converting methanol to hydrogen gas containing almost no CO by oxidative steam reforming reaction wherein partial oxidation and steam reforming reaction are performed, comprising the steps of:

reacting a mixture of aqueous solutions of each nitrate of Cu, Zn, Al, and Zr with an aqueous NaOH solution and aqueous NaCO₃ solution while agitating the mixture at room temperature and pH of approximately 9 to[[:]] ~~producing~~ produce a precipitate by coprecipitation;

aging, filtering, washing the precipitate with deionized water until the pH of the filtrate becomes 7, and drying this precipitate to prepare a catalyst precursor consisting of a CuZnAlZr layered double hydroxide; and then

calcining this catalyst precursor in an air ambient atmosphere to obtain a CuZnAlZr oxide.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of producing a CuZnAlZr oxide catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the molecular ratio of Cu, Zn, Al, and Zr in the starting solution is $(\text{Cu}+\text{Zn})/(\text{Al}+\text{Zr})=2$ to 4.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A CuZnAlZr oxide catalyst having activity of converting methanol to hydrogen gas containing almost no CO by oxidative steam reforming of methanol, which is produced by the method according to claim 1 or claim 2.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn).

Claim 5 (Withdrawn).

Claim 6 (Withdrawn).

Claim 7 (Withdrawn).

Claim 8 (Withdrawn).

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

The amendment to Claim 1 is supported by the passages at page 10, lines 22-23, at page 13, lines 9-10 and lines 13-14 in the description.

Claims 4-8 were previously withdrawn.

No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application.